MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

THE OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME

$2.00

National Soccer League Round 15. Sunday December 21st 2003

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS vs PERTH GLORY

Knights Stadium 6.00pm

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1953 2003

Knights Update

Welcome to all loyal Knights supporters to Knights Stadium tonight for the Round 15 clash against Perth Glory. Both teams have had quite different first halves to the season but a tight match is always on the cards when both teams play.

The Knights have arrived back from Sydney where they had to play sister club Sydney United on the Wednesday and then back up against Marconi Stallions on the Saturday.

The boys came out firing against Sydney United in humid conditions and dominated the first half. Despite having many close shots, United keeper Liam Reddy did not have much to do as neither did Knights keeper Vilson Knezevic. Straight after the break, a defensive error allowed United to slide the ball past a hapless Knezevic. The Knights heads dropped and conceded another 2 in quick time. Down 3-0, the team started to pressure again as shot after shot was frustratingly blocked by the solid United defence. It took a Vasilevski cracker from outside the box to give the Knights a consolation goal. Despite dominating for most of the match, the Knights lost 3-1.

Playing again on Saturday night in front of a crowd of no more than 500 people, the Knights kept their cool and played well again. Trajanovski came closest to scoring in the first half with a header saved by Marconi keeper Turnbull. After half time, Marconi lifted a notch and took hold of the game, only to be stopped by the Knights defence and keeper Knezevic who made two crucial saves to keep the score 0-0. Coach Dobson rung in the changes introducing strikers Nick Marinos and Serkan Oksuz to and more spice up front. With only a minute of injury time left, a hopeful long ball reached Marinos who rounded the defender and hit the shot past the keeper onto the upright and in. The team held out to win 1-0.

The pressure will be on the side to keep their good form going here at home where the crowd is desperate for its first home win for the season. If the Knights play as fluently and as skillfully as they did in Sydney, a win tonight will be a very big possibility.

NEXT HOME GAME

ROUND 18
WEDNESDAY.
7TH JANUARY
MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS
VS
FOOTBALL KINGZ
KO 7.30 PM
KNIGHTS STADIUM

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

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Victoria Australia

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www.melbourneknights.com.au
admin@melbourneknights.com.au

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Vice President: JOHN NAKIC
Secretary: MARIO SIKETA
Financial Director: ANTE JURIC
General Manager: STELA KRIVCIC
Office Administration:
MARIJA TUNJASEVIC

Board of Directors:
SIMUN SAMARDZIC
ANTE SMOLIC
MARJAN BOSNJAK
MILE SODA
JOHN PERAN

Senior Coach: IAN DOBSON

Youth Coach: JOE MONTEMURRO

Goalkeeper Coach: LOU KASTNER

Fitness Coach: NICK REDECKI

Team Manager: MIRO KUSTURA

Media Officers:
MICHAEL JOVANOVIC
PAUL HOULIHAN

COMPASS Recruitment

OFF THE BENCH

A lot has been asked of our boys in the last few weeks.

Two away matches in New South Wales saw our evolving squad tackle some of the leagues toughest players. While these matches provided us with the opportunity to climb up the league ladder, it also permitted for our newest signings to be acclimatised to the squad.

We were unfortunate in our outing at the United Sports Centre. A mid-week clash against an old rival saw our squad up against quality opposition. The standout was Daniel Vasilevski, who was rewarded for his tireless play with a late consolation goal. Regardless, it was a quality strike and will ensure Daniel receives the attention from opponents quality players deserve.

Our mixed results this season has seen the playing squad change significantly. Such a change to the squad indeed perpetuated our timely triumph over Marconi. Nicholas Marinos, in only his second match in Knights' colours, scored late into injury time to steal a late victory.

Our squad has been strengthened by the return of young Australian international Steve Pantelidis. Despite an unfortunate loss to tournament hosts United Arab Emirates, our future Socceroos knocked three goals past a Brazilian side with names in lights and players destined for Europe's biggest clubs. Steve had a great tournament, and it is an honour for myself and the Melbourne Knights to be associated with a representative of international level.

Todays clash reunited not-so-old rivals as we welcome the return of Perth Glory to Somers Street. With a depleted midfield, the absence of the formidable Matt Horsley and recent mixed results provide us with the ability to put one over the boys from the West.

I ask the fans to show the Glory the same due respect we expect when playing far away from home, and welcome the current champions back for another fantastic football fixture.

Melbourne Knights Senior Coach
Ian Dobson

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IAN DOBSON
COACH

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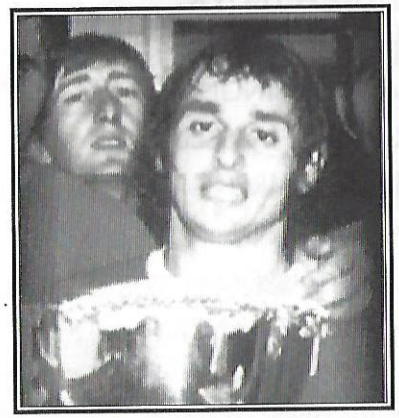
TEAM OF THE CENTURY
PROFILE

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS
10. BILLY VOJTEK



Melbourne Knights
1962 – 1972 / 1977 – 1978

Career Highlights:
Division One Champion '64
Armstrong Cup Champion '66
State League Champion '68 & '71
Ampol Cup Champion '68, '71 & '72
Ansett Cup Champion '68
44 Australian Caps
Member of '74 World Cup Squad
Player of the Year '75

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1. MARTIN JOHN
2. STANKO ZILIC
3. RODRIGO VARGAS
4. ANTUN KOVACIC
5. DANIEL PIORKOWSKI
6. ANDREW MARTH (C)
7. DANIEL VASILEVSKI
8. DANIEL ROCCO
9. PETER BULJAN
10. NIKOLA SABLJAK
11. TOMI RAZOV
12. ISYAN ERDOGAN
13. FIKRET HUSANOVIC
14. ADRIAN LEIJER
15. MICHAEL BATINOVIC
16. BILL NATSIOULAS
17. ANDY VARGAS
18. HENRY FA`ARODO
19. ANTHONY PELIKAN
21. SERKAN OKSUZ
22. STEVE PANTELIDIS
24. DARIO MATKOVIC
25. TOMMI TOMICH
27. VILSON KNEZEVIC
26. KRIS TRAJANOVSKI
28. NICK MARINOS
30. DANIEL ZILIC

COACH:
IAN DOBSON

PERTH GLORY

1. JASON PETKOVIC
2. MATT HORSLEY
3. MATHEW BINGLEY
4. BRADLEY HASSELL
5. SHAUN MURPHY
6. WAYNE SRHOJ
7. SCOTT MILLER
8. ANTHONY DANZE
9. NICK MRDJA
10. BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI
11. JADE NORTH
12. MARK BYRNES
15. TOM PONDELJAK
16. DAMIAN MORI
17. GARY FARIA
19. AARON COLE
20. VINCE MATASSA
21. ADRIAN CACERES
22. DEAN APELGREN
23. SHANE CRAMPTON
24. JAMIE COYNE
25. SCOTT BULLOCH

COACH:
MITCH D`AVRAY

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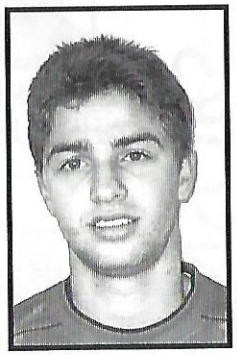
PLAYER PROFILE

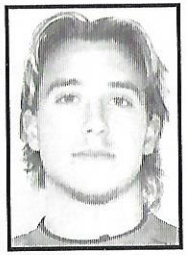
BILLY NATSIOULAS



Another young recruit to the Knights' crusade, Bill Natsioulas provides Senior Coach Ian Dobson with another option in the midfield. This young Knight is more than aware of the competition for his position, especially given the recent arrival of several attacking–minded players as Somers Street. Still, Bill is enthusiastic about his future with the Knight's and his own future within Australia's National Soccer League. A strong–minded youngster with quick feet and wit to match, Bill Natsioulas will be a Knight to watch for the future.

Name: Bill Natsioulas
Born: 30–10–84
Nickname: None really, maybe 'Bill Nats', or just 'Nats'?
Club Supported: Tottenham Hotspur, yeah, I always liked the 'Spurs as a kid.
Clubs played for: Bentleigh Greens and Melbourne Knights.
Favourite Position: Attacking Midfielder. Anywhere in the park the boss wants me to play.
Who do you play like? Christiano Ronaldo, I know, it's big boots to fill.
Hardest Opponent: Definitely Matty Horsley. He's tough and I'm glad he's out this week.
Best Player Played with: Rody Vargas. Same team is always a safe bet.
Career Highlights: Last seasons derby with South was definitely a highlight. I love the atmosphere in a local derby. A win isn't bad either [laughs].
Cards: I've never received one, I'm still a card virgin. Yes, I suppose my parents to hear that [laughs].
Worst game? Hopefully never, definitely hope it's not this weekend.
Harry or the V.Bomber? Kewell. I think he's just much more of a complete player. I like to base my own play around his style, a more liberal, free role. A real play maker..
Favourite Local Player: Rody Vargas, safe again.
In my stereo right now is … DMX, the PG version of course [laughs].
In five years I'll be … Playing in the new Australian Premier League, and hopefully a Melbourne club, if not the Melbourne Knights. I'm really exciting about the whole new league. These next couple of years are going to be really interesting.

PLAYERS SPONSORS



Adam Hrehoresian
AHD – Footscray

Adrian Leijer
Teta's Club

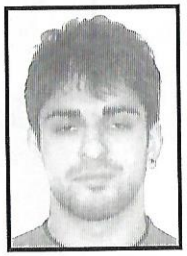
Steve Pantelidis
Rudolf Horvat & Assoc.

Anthony Pelikan
Compass Recruitment

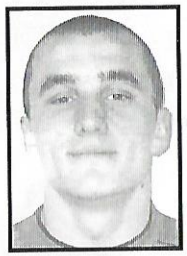
Antun Kovacic
Nash Golf Club

Bill Natsioulas
Rudolf Horvat & Assoc.

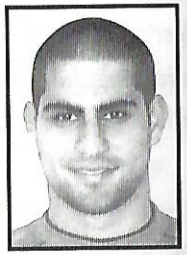
Daniel Rocco
Jadran Delic



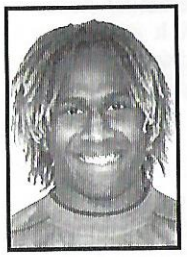
Daniel Vasilevski
Barry Plant Doherty



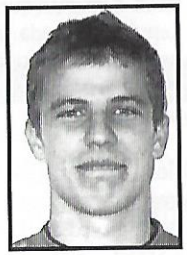
Fikret Husanovic
Croatian Islamic Centre



Isyan Erdogan
Joe Pelikan

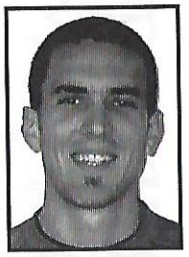


Henry Fa'Arodo
Cimera Butchers

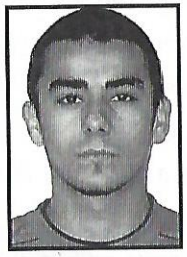


Michael Batinovic
St Albans Dinamo

Nikola Sabljak
Steve Novak



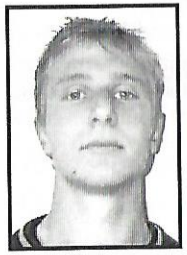
Peter Buljan
Barry Plant Doherty



Serkan Oksuz
Caelli Constructions

Stanko Zilic
Boomerang Homes

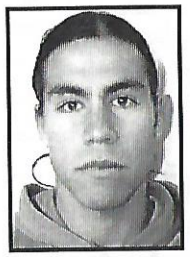
Tomi Razov
Zadar Melbourne
Tornado Glenroy Split



Daniel Piorkowski
Eltrax P/L

Martin John
Compass Recruitment

Andy Vargas
M & A Rakonic



Rody Vargas (VC
Frank Franjic

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Andrew Marth (C)
LU Simon & JZ Lee

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Ian Dobson (Coach)
Boomerang Homes

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CAPTAINS REPORT ANDREW MARTH

Playing three tough games within the space of six days is never an easy task. Our inability to capitalise in these games ultimately cost us valuable points, but also enabled our newest Knights to gel with our core playing squad.

Vilson Knezevic, our latest man between the posts, performed well in both of our Sydney trips. Despite conceding three goals against United, he did so against quality and tried strikers in Franco Parisi and the formidable Zeljko Babic. Daniel Vasilevski was the stand out for our side, capitalising upon his hard work with a quality strike in the 83rd minute.

Our result against Marconi speaks for itself. Alex Brosque was selected for Australian international duty against the Czech Republic, Canada and Brazil. It is a wonderful compliment that such a hyped-striker was unable to ruffle our defence. It is a true testament of the development of our young squad and the intelligent inclusion of both seasoned veterans and exciting young prospects.

This next match could indeed be classified as a yardstick for our development. Perth Glory has always provided us with a great challenge and a wonderful style of football. Until recently, such contests have been played at a neutral fixture, but I am glad that the match has returned to Somers Street.

With former Glory utility Peter Buljan now in our corner, and more than enough experience against both their 'keeper and strike force, today shall prove to be a wonderful spectacle.

Today's clash also pitches two quality managers against one another.
I am greatly looking forward to taking on the Glory once again, and look forward to tackling old rival on our home turf.

Support our boys, and welcome Nick Marinos for his first home game. Given his recent form, he should return the favour with another late winner.

Melbourne Knights Senior Captain
Andrew Marth

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4th Prize - Two return airfares to Gold Coast
5th Prize - Dinner & Drinks Voucher
6th Prize - 24 piece stainless steel BBQ set
7th Prize - Joma Sports voucher
8th Prize - Prsut

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YOUTH TEAM DEVELOPMENT

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Today's Youth game Melbourne Knights Youth Vs Melbourne Knights Academy. This classic encounter showcases the ongoing talent at the Knights. Both teams are coming off important wins and today's game will only solidify the positive position of each team on the table. The Youth are on top of the ladder while the Academy are vying for a top four position. We hope that you enjoy the game. A special mention goes to youth striker OMAR AYACHE (9) who is currently the top scorer in the league on 11 goals.

RESULTS: ROUND. 10

WVSA Geelong 1 drew South Melbourne Academy 1
Albury/ Wodonga 2 lost to Preston Lions 3
South Melbourne Youth 6 defeated Heidelberg United 1
Melbourne Knights Youth 4 defeated Whittlesea Stallions 0
Bulleen Zebras 0 lost to Melbourne Knights Academy 1

TABLE AFTER ROUND. 10

1.Melbourne Knights Youth	*10*	*7*	*3*	*0*	*30*	*12*	*24*
2.South Melbourne Youth	*9*	*7*	*1*	*1*	*24*	*9*	*22*
3.Bulleen Zebras	*10*	*5*	*1*	*4*	*29*	*19*	*16*
4.Preston Lions	*10*	*5*	*0*	*5*	*26*	*33*	*15*
5.Whittlesea Stallions	*10*	*3*	*5*	*2*	*19*	*17*	*14*
6.Melbourne Knights Academy	*9*	*3*	*4*	*2*	*18*	*15*	*13*
7.Heidelberg United	*10*	*3*	*2*	*5*	*13*	*19*	*11*
8.South Melbourne Academy	*10*	*2*	*3*	*5*	*16*	*23*	*9*
9.Albury/ Wodonga	*10*	*2*	*2*	*6*	*22*	*29*	*8*
10.WVSA Geelong	*10*	*0*	*3*	*7*	*8*	*26*	*3*

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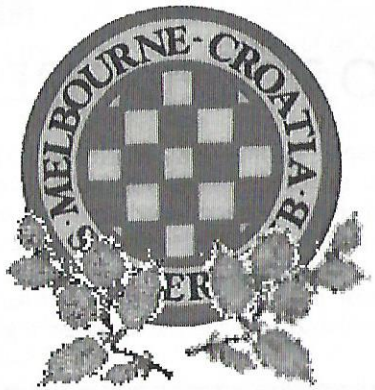

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Marija at the Knights Office on 9312 3584

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NSL ROUND 14

Newcastle United	2 (M Johnson 34' C Deans 55')
Football Kingz	0
Brisbane Strikers	3 (L Morley 56' R Brownlie 82' D Pilic 87')
Northern Spirit	1 (A Kwasnik 46')
Marconi Stallions	0
Melbourne Knights	1 (N Marinos 92'+)
Sydney United	0
Wollongong Wolves	1 (C Nwaogazi 47')
Adelaide United	1 (S Thompson 87')
Sydney Olympic	1 (P Cardozo 62')
Sth Melbourne	2 (V Coveny 34' pen/62' pen)
Parramatta Power	1 (F Rech 15')
Perth	Bye

TABLE – After Round 14	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1. South Melbourne	13	8	2	3	30	10	26
2. Parramatta Power	12	7	2	3	27	12	23
3. Perth Glory	11	7	1	3	21	14	22
4. Brisbane Strikers	13	6	4	3	17	13	22
5. Sydney United	12	5	4	3	11	7	19
6. Newcastle United	13	5	4	4	16	15	19
7. Adelaide United	11	4	5	2	13	12	17
8. Marconi Stallions	13	4	4	5	12	16	16
9. Northern Spirit	13	5	0	8	20	21	15
10.Wollongong Wolves	12	4	2	6	12	19	14
11. Sydney Olympic	13	3	4	6	10	19	13
12. Melbourne Knights	12	3	2	7	9	22	11
13. Football Kingz	12	1	2	9	12	30	5

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sat 27 December 2003	Perth Glory – Brisbane Strikers	7:00pm	Members Equity Stadium
Sat 27 December 2003	South Melbourne – Wollongong Wolves	7:30pm	Bob Jane Stadium
Sun 28 December 2003	Sydney Olympic – Northern Spirit	5:00pm	OKI Jubilee Stadium
Sun 28 December 2003	Newcastle United – Marconi Stallions	6:30pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Sun 28 December 2003	Adelaide United – Melbourne Knights	7:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun 28 December 2003	Football Kingz – Parramatta Power	8:00pm	Waikato Stadium, Hamilton

Sydney United BYE

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HEAD TO HEAD STATS

PROVIDED BY HOOKER WIF A.....

STATISTICS

History vs Perth Glory

Played: 19
Knights won: 2 (11%)
Perth won: 11 (58%)
Draws: 6 (32%)
Knights goals: 20 (1.1 a match)
Perth goals: 41 (2.2 a match)

In Melbourne:
Played: 9
Knights won: 2 (22%)
Perth won: 3 (33%)
Draws: 4 (44%)
Knights goals: 9 (1.0 a match)
Perth goals: 13 (1.4 a match)

Top goalscorers for Knights against Perth:
A. Cervinski 4
T. Pondeljak, A. Da Costa, I. Kelic, A. Pelikan 2

Knights biggest victory vs Perth: 1996/97 Rd 26: Knights 3-1 Perth
Knights biggest defeat vs Perth: 1999/2000 Rd 8: Perth 6-1 Knights

Last 5 matches against Perth:
2003/04 Rd 2: Perth 3-0 Knights
2002/03 Rd 25: Perth 3-1 Knights
2002/03 Rd 12: Knights 1-4 Perth
2001/02 Rd 20: Knights 1-1 Perth (At York Park)
2001/02 Rd 7: Perth 2-0 Knights

Knights have never played Perth Glory in Rd 15.

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